

## CLAIMS.

1. Protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters characterised by the fact that it consists of hydroxypropylguar having a degree of molar substitution from 1 to 4, and a 2% viscosity ranging from 1,000 to 25,000 mPa\*s.
2. Protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters according to claim 1., wherein the hydroxypropylguar has a degree of molar substitution from 1.5 to 3.
3. Protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters according to claim 1. or 2., wherein the hydroxypropylguar is reticulated with from 0.3 to 1.5% by weight of glyoxal.
4. Protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters according to claim 3., wherein the hydroxypropylguar is reticulated with from 0.4 to 0.8% by weight of glyoxal.
5. Protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters according to claim 3. or 4., wherein the reticulated hydroxypropylguar is obtained by treating hydroxypropylguar with from 2 to 3% by weight of glyoxal.
6. Protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters according to claim 5., wherein the reticulated hydroxypropylguar is obtained by treating hydroxypropylguar with from 2.2 to 2.8% by weight of glyoxal.
7. Protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters according to claim 5. or 6., wherein the treatment takes place at room temperature with glyoxal dissolved in water at pH lower than 6 and with a subsequent 30-90 minutes long washing step with water at pH lower than 6.
8. Aqueous emulsion of polyvinyl esters containing from 0.3 to 4 % by weight of hydroxypropylguar, the percentage being referred to the weight of polyvinyl ester .
9. Aqueous emulsion of polyvinyl esters containing from 1 to 3 % by weight of hydroxypropylguar, the percentage being referred to the weight of polyvinyl ester.
10. Aqueous emulsion of polyvinyl esters according to claim 8. or 9., characterised by the fact that said polyvinyl esters are obtained co-polymerising from 65 to 75 parts by weight of vinyl acetate with from 25 to 35 parts by weight of vinyl versatate.